

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 H-03 DODE-00 PM-07 USIA-15 /041 W

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R 061401Z SEP 74

FM AMEMFISSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8001

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6704

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC AR

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND OTHER POLITICAL GRANTS

REF: (A) BA-6239; (B) STATE 184209

1. IN REF A EMBASSY INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER ARGEMBASSY HAD IN FACT INVITED GROUP OF TEN ARGENTINE CONGRESSMEN TO VISIT US TO OBSERVE ELECTIONS. IN REF B DEPT INDICATED ARGEMBASSY HAD RESPONDED THAT IT STILL ATTEMPTING RPT ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE SUCH A VISIT AND WOULD WELCOME PROPOSAL FROM AMEMBASSY BA.

2. APPARENTLY ARGEMBASSY NOT ALTOGETHER ACCURATE OR FORTH-COMING IN REFERENCED CONVERSATION. IN LONG DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFFS ON OTHER MATTERS SEP 3, SENATOR EDUARDO ALBERTO PAZ INFORMED US THAT CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION HAS INDEED ALREADY BEEN FORMED AND WILL TRAVEL TO US END OF OCTOBER. HE SHOWED US NOTE FROM OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY DATED JULY 15 INDICATING THAT AMBASSADOR ORFILA HAD MADE ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR GROUP, WHICH OFFICIALLY INVITED BY US CONGRESS. ORFILA WILL FURNISH AIR PASSAGE AND OTHER EXPENSES WILL BE BORNE BY ARGCONGRESS --I.E., NO COSTS TO USG. NOTE INSTRUCTED PRESIDENTS OF TWO CHAMBERS TO APPOINT FOUR SENATORS AND SIX DEPUTIES TO GROUP. THIS HAS BEEN DONE. SENATORS ARE RAMON ENRIQUE MORENO, EDUARDO ALBERTO PAZ AND JUSTINO GARCIA, ALL OF FREJULI BLOC, PLUS ANTONIO OSCAR NAPOLI OF UCR. WE ARE ENDEAVORING SECURE NAMES OF SIX DEPUTIES AND WILL FORWARD SOONEST.

3. EMBASSY IS DELIGHTED THAT ARGENTINE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
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WILL SHORTLY VISIT US AND WE WILL ENDEAVOR ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH ALL TEN MEMBERS IN ORDER DETERMINE SPECIAL INTEREST OF

EACH OR IN OTHER WAYS MAKE CERTAIN THEIR VISIT IS SUCCESSFUL ONE. SENATOR PAZ, FOR EXAMPLE, IS CHAIRMAN OF SENATE DEFENSE COMMITTEE AND VERY MUCH WANTS TO CONFER WITH PENTAGON OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY THOSE DEALING WITH WEAPONS PROCUREMENT. HE APPEARS TO BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WEAPONS WHICH MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR ARGENTINA. HE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN BRIEFING (PERHAPS BY PM IN DEPT) ON US STRATEGIC POLICY. PAZ WILL BE TRAVELING WITH MILITARY AIDE.

4. WHILE PLEASED THAT DELEGATION WILL VISIT US AND WHILE WE MUCH APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR ORFILA'S EFFORTS TO BRING THIS ABOUT, WE ARE SOMEWHAT CONCERNED OVER IMPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROGRAMS. OBVIOUSLY JOINT EFFORT WILL NOT WORK IF ONE PARTY DOES NOT TELL OTHER WHAT IT IS DOING. SINCE ORFILA HAS ALREADY INVITED ONE DELEGATION ON HIS OWN, EMBASSY INTENDS TO HOLD OFF ON OUR OWN PLANS TO SUBMIT NAMES FOR JOINTLY-SPONSORED CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION. CLEARLY IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO HAVE TWO LARGE DELEGATIONS IN US AT MORE OR LESS THE SAME TIME.

5. IN RESPONSE PARAMHWO REF B, EMBASSY HAS INVITED LICASTRO AND HE HAS PROMISED TO GIVE US DEFINITE RESPONSE SOONEST. WE MAY ALSO EXTEND INVITATION TO MARTIARENA, THOUGH TRAVEL OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ABOVE RAISES SOME QUESTION IN OUR MINDS AS TO WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE MORE USEFULLY EXTENDED TO SOME OTHER AREA OF POLITICAL SCENE--SUCH AS PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS06704
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740248-0179
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740970/aaaacgzc.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) BA-6239; (B) STATE 184209
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 SEP 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND OTHER POLITICAL GRANTS
TAGS: OEXC, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005